WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Debt burden of States

*346. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Government's debt burden has risen to Rs. 41,709 crores as on 31st March, 2005;

(b) the action plan of the Centre to help the State to tackle its financial problems; and

(c) the action plan of Government to help the Orissa State which is also under unsustainable debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V RAJASEKHARAN): (a) According to information received from the Government of Kerala, the debt burden of the Government of Kerala, as on 31st March 2005, is Rs. 41,855 crores.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the decision taken by Government of India to implement the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) relating to reschedulement of Central loans to States, reduction of interest rate on Central loans and write-off of debt outstanding of States to the Central Government, guidelines have been issued to States by Finance Ministry for preparing a fiscal correction path and drafting fiscal reponsibility legislation as prescribed by the TFC. This is expected to assist all State governments to tackle their financial problems. To contain the debt burden and ensure financial discipline Government of Kerala has enacted a fiscal responsibility legislation in December, 2003. Debt relief that could be available to Kerala if it meets the requirements laid down by the TFC from 2005-06 to 2009-2010 is estimated at Rs. 715.03 crores in terms of lower interest payments, Rs. 379.14 crores in terms of principal repayment and Rs. 1,751.29 crores as debt waiver. According to information received from the Government of Orissa, the debt burden of Orissa as on 31.03.2005 is Rs. 34190.75 crores. Guidelines issued by Finance Ministry apply to Orissa also. Orissa has enacted a Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act which has come into force from 14th June, 2005 targeting elimination of revenue deficit and reducing the fiscal deficit to 3% by 2008-09. The 'Twelfth Finance Commission has estimated the debt relief that could be

available to Orissa from 2005-06 to 2009-10 at Rs. 1008.43 crores in terms of lower interest payment, Rs. 872.85 crores in terms of principal repayments and Rs. 1063.05 crores as debt waiver.

Showing of Indian areas in Pakistan's map

†*347 DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some parts of Jammu and Kashmir in the maps of the country are repeatedly displayed as Pakistan's parts and this blunder is frequently committed by Government offices;

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government on such type of serious issue;

(c) whether any company or Government office can commit such a blunder in drawing Indian map and display the same on the computer; and

(d) if not, the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The Survey of India is at present not aware of any Government office charged with the responsibility of publishing maps, showing any part of J & K as a part of Pakistan. No authorized map of India reflects that any part of Jammu & Kashmir is a part of Pakistan. Any book or magazine or any other publication of like nature is obligated in law to publish maps of India showing its external boundaries in conformity with the Survey of India's authorized publications of such boundaries. In the event of any deviation by any individual or entity, legal action under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1961 can be launched. In the past action has been taken in respect of such deviations as when such infractions came to the notice of authorities. There are sixteen instances of such infractions. In some instances, the infractions have been brought to the notice of Ministry of Home Affairs or the External Affairs, as the case may be and in some cases Criminal Proceedings are pending in Courts of appropriate jurisdiction.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.